

N., 106° W. On the 22d the steamer *New Jersey* had a strong southeast gale near 21° N., 108° W., barometer depressed to 29.49 inches. On the 23d the steamer *Steel Age* had a southeast gale of force 11 near 23° N., 111° W., barometer 29.26 inches. On the 24th the steamer *Robin Hood* had a strong southeast gale near 25° N., 113° W. Thus, was shown the northwestward progress for five days of a storm that was at least of near-hurricane force off the west coast of Lower California.

The seventh cyclone was first indicated by reports as organizing on the 26th in the vicinity of 17° N., 103° W. It probably attained the height of its energy on the 27th, during which day the steamship *Willkeno* had a whole gale from ESE., barometer 29.60, near 19° N., 105° W., and the steamer *Charles R. McCormack* encountered strong northeast to southeast gales near 19° N. 106° W., with a maximum force of 12 from ESE. at noon, lowest pressure 29.13 inches. Captain Christensen of this vessel said the storm was accompanied by the heaviest precipitation of his experience. The storm proceeded northwestward with apparently lessening energy and was last heard from in connection with a moderate easterly gale on the 29th at about 23° N., 110° W.

BUCKET OBSERVATIONS OF SEA-SURFACE TEMPERATURES

By GILES SLOCUM

STRAITS OF FLORIDA AND CARIBBEAN SEA

Table 1 shows the average temperatures for the Caribbean Sea and the Straits of Florida for September of each year from 1919 to 1930, inclusive, and Table 2 summarizes the temperatures for September, 1930, in the same areas. The chart shows the number of observations taken in September, 1930, within each 1° square and mean temperature data for subdivisions of the area considered.

September is the warmest month in the Caribbean Sea, with the mean yearly peak in temperature occurring at approximately the end of the month. The Straits of Florida, while usually cooler in September than in August, are warmer than in July, and the temperatures there drop but slowly until the final days of the month, when the abrupt autumn drop in temperature ordinarily commences.

The last quarter of September, 1930, was slightly cooler than the 11-year mean in the Caribbean, but the month as a whole was warmer than the average, the seventh consecutive month of high temperatures. The Straits were close to the seasonal average in temperature, except in the final quarter, when they were above the mean.

TABLE 1.—Mean sea-surface temperatures in the Caribbean Sea and the Straits of Florida for September, 1919–1930

Year	Caribbean Sea		Straits of Florida	
	Number of observations	Mean (°F.)	Number of observations	Mean (°F.)
1919 ¹	87	82.6	28	82.2
1920.....	192	82.2	35	83.3
1921.....	255	82.1	104	83.4
1922.....	150	82.2	66	83.0
1923.....	237	82.0	71	83.1
1924.....	310	83.4	79	83.7
1925.....	384	82.7	131	83.6
1926.....	429	83.3	149	83.5
1927.....	547	83.6	180	84.3
1928.....	597	82.9	156	83.6
1929.....	644	82.5	176	82.8
1930.....	588	83.0	175	83.5
Mean (1920–1930).....	82.7	83.4

¹ Not used in computations because of insufficient data available.

TABLE 2.—Mean sea-surface temperatures (°F.) and number of observations, September, 1930

Quarter	Period	Caribbean Sea				Straits of Florida			
		Number of observations	Mean	Departure from 11-year mean (1920–1930)	Change from preceding month	Number of observations	Mean	Departure from 11-year mean (1920–1930)	Change from preceding month
First.....	Sept. 1–7.....	141	83.1	°F.	°F.	38	83.5	°F.	°F.
Second.....	Sept. 8–15.....	169	82.9	°F.	°F.	61	83.4	°F.	°F.
Third.....	Sept. 16–22.....	137	83.2	°F.	°F.	35	83.6	°F.	°F.
Fourth.....	Sept. 23–30.....	141	82.6	°F.	°F.	51	83.5	°F.	°F.
	Month.....	588	83.0	+0.3	+0.5	175	83.5	+0.1	–0.8

Distribution of Greenwich Mean Noon Bucket Observations of Sea-Surface Temperatures, September, 1931

(Plotted by Giles Slocum)

